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LETTER DATED 4 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the details of aggressions perpetrated against the Sudanese territory and people by Eritrea (annex I). The flagrant support of the Eritrean regime to Sudanese terrorist groups, in particular the so-called Sudanese National Alliance, and the facilities it provides for their terrorist activities inside Eritrea is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and constitutes a threat to regional and international peace and security.

Please find attached also a copy of an article published in New Eritrea, an official daily newspaper issued by the Eritrean Ministry of Information on 16 October 1996 (annex II). The article refers to a meeting of the terrorist organization called the "Sudanese National Alliance" and clearly reflects the terrorist acts carried out by this group, with the support and assistance of Eritrea, inside Sudanese territory.

The anti-tank and anti-personnel mines used by the Eritrean Forces and their allies have resulted in grave losses of life and property, and jeopardized the security of innocent citizens in eastern Sudan.

In spite of the policies adopted by Eritrea, I would like to convey to you that the Government of the Sudan remains fully committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and will spare no effort to try to convince the Eritrean authorities to normalize relations with the Sudan. We urge the Government of Eritrea, through you, to stop these aggressions. The Sudan will continue its efforts to establish conduct with Eritrea with the aim of bringing peace and security to the region.

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its enclosures could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

Annex I

[Original: Arabic]

Eritrean acts of aggression in the Kassala, Abu Gamal, Hamdayit, Gardah, Awwad and Tugan areas of eastern Sudan, 1 February-15 October 1996

6 February 1996

Eritrean forces fired on a position to the east of Awwad, forcing Sudanese forces to respond. The Eritreans withdrew inside their own territory. There was no loss of life.

31 March 1996

Sudanese forces removed an anti-vehicle mine that had been laid by Eritrean forces on the Tugan-Kassala road.

2 April 1996

Eritrean forces clashed with Sudanese forces in the area between Tugan and Talkuk, about 20 kilometres south of Tugan and 22 kilometres inside Sudanese territory. Four Sudanese soldiers were killed and one was wounded.

6 April 1996

At 0900 hours an Eritrean force consisting of 13 men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and grenades seized a commercial vehicle south of Gardah on the Kassala-Gardah road. It was released three hours later. The same force seized four pick-up trucks belonging to a Sudanese from the Rashayidah tribe. Information reaching Sudanese forces in the area indicated that the object of these actions was to ambush forces attached to the Sudanese customs administration.

13 April 1996

At 0830 hours an Eritrean force consisting of three armed men seized two trucks belonging to the Ministry of Health on the asphalt road between Kassala airfield and Malwiyah station. Sudanese forces pursued them, but they fled into Eritrean territory.

20-22 April 1996

Two detachments of Eritrean infantry attacked a Sudanese police encampment inside Sudanese territory in the Miraysisah area, 45 kilometres south-east of Kassala. The force was armed with Kalashnikovs, G-3s, Granovs, RPGs and a DShK mounted on a Landcruiser. After forces in the area were reinforced by a Sudanese company, the Eritrean force withdrew inside Eritrea and pulled back its camp opposite our forces. In this attack, three Sudanese soldiers were killed

and five soldiers and a civilian were wounded. Two members of the Eritrean force were also killed.

15 June 1996

An Eritrean force in armoured vehicles entered Sudanese territory and advanced until it reached the Abu Gamal area, 45 kilometres south of Kassala. It engaged in mine-laying activities.

18 June 1996

While persons in transit were being searched at the Hamdayit inspection post, a terrorist group consisting of three Eritreans fired on those manning the post. It was determined that the Eritreans were disguised as Sudanese and wearing the Sudanese djellaba to conceal their Kalashnikov assault rifles. Sudanese soldiers exchanged fire with them. One of the Eritreans was killed, and one Sudanese soldier was killed and two were wounded.

29 June 1996

At 0900 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded under a Landcruiser belonging to the Sudanese customs police. Two persons were killed and five were wounded, including a police officer.

5 July 1996

At 1300 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded under a civilian bus seven kilometres north of Gardah. Eight civilians and three soldiers were injured.

11 July 1996

An anti-vehicle mine exploded under a tractor-trailer loaded with sugar belonging to the Ministry of Trade north of Gash about eight kilometres from Abu Gamal.

13 July 1996

At 0910 hours Eritrean forces at Tamarat camp east of Awwad pursued an Eritrean conscript into Sudanese territory. This led him to surrender to Sudanese forces.

21 July 1996

At 0600 hours an Eritrean force consisting of an infantry company supported by two armoured vehicles and accompanied by opposition terrorist groups coming from inside Eritrean territory attacked the Abu Gamal area. Two Sudanese soldiers were killed. The Eritrean forces withdrew inside Eritrean territory as a result of the clash and took up positions along the border strip four kilometres north of Gardah in Gibab Gulal. This required the Sudan to reinforce its positions in the area in preparation for another attack.

1 August 1996

An anti-vehicle mine exploded under a bus six kilometres north of Awwad, and a number of persons were injured.

An anti-personnel mine laid by Eritrean forces exploded while Sudanese forces were pursuing a smugglers' vehicle. Seven Sudanese soldiers and officers were wounded.

8 August 1996

An anti-personnel mine exploded under a pick-up truck.

At 1400 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded under a Tata vehicle, destroying it. The leg of one Sudanese was severed, and three other citizens were wounded. The explosion was followed by a hail of fire directed by Eritrean forces from Jabal Tambakayt (south-east of Abu Gamal). No losses were incurred. Sudanese forces were obliged to engage in an exchange of fire with the Eritrean forces.

10 August 1996

An anti-vehicle mine was recovered near the place where the previous mine had exploded south-east of Abu Gamal.

An anti-vehicle mine laid by Eritrean forces and opposition terrorist groups exploded under a passenger bus near the border village of Diman. The civilian bus driver was killed and three other civilians were injured.

11 August 1996

A mine laid by Eritrean forces exploded in the Abu Gamal area, and a flare was subsequently fired from Jabal Tambakayt by Eritrean forces.

At 0800 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded, causing major damage to a drinking-water storage tank.

12 August 1996

A member of the terrorist group that calls itself the "Alliance Forces" surrendered his weapon and two grenades. He confessed that the force's training camp is located inside Eritrean territory to the east of Hamdayit.

Between 0700 and 2000 hours Eritrean forces bombarded Sudanese forces with mortars and 106-mm artillery. One Sudanese soldier was killed and three were wounded, and a drinking-water storage tank was completely destroyed.

25 August 1996

At 0400 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded under a civilian tractor in the area between Abu Gamal and Laffah. There were no casualties.

6 September 1996

At 0200 hours an Eritrean force together with forces of the terrorist groups supported by Eritrea attacked Awwad police post from the direction of the village to the rear of the site. Three police officers were killed and two were wounded. One of the attackers was killed, and two grenades were found in his possession. The attacking forces fled inside Eritrean territory.

11 September 1996

An anti-personnel mine exploded, and a corporal of the Sudanese forces was killed.

20 September 1996

At 1540 hours an Eritrean force consisting of seven individuals armed with RPG launchers, Granovs and Kalashnikovs ambushed a Sudanese guard force two kilometres north of Gardah inside Sudanese territory. A water storage tank was slightly damaged by the Eritreans' Granov, and Sudanese forces were obliged to respond to the attack, so that the Eritrean forces fled towards the Gulal heights.

21 September 1996

At 0715 hours a number of members of the Eritrean forces and a company from the terrorist forces supported by Eritrea clashed with a Sudanese forces patrol over a period of 45 minutes in the Bab Gulal area seven kilometres north of Gardah. There were killed and wounded on both sides. The terrorist forces and Eritrean forces withdrew from Sudanese territory.

8 October 1996

At 0300 hours a company of the terrorists who are supported by the Eritrean forces attacked Sudanese forces at Tugan. Three members of the Sudanese force were wounded. One member of the Eritrean forces was killed and seven were wounded.

9 October 1996

At 0630 hours an anti-vehicle mine exploded under a truck on the Bagdir road seven kilometres north of Awwadah. Five citizens were wounded.

11 October 1996

Eritrean forces and an opposition terrorist force consisting of seven men armed with Kalashnikovs and Granovs captured two citizens from the Rashayidah tribe at Gardah. Sudanese forces intercepted them, and they fled into Eritrean territory.

13 October 1996

A Sudanese search patrol removed two anti-vehicle mines that had been laid by Eritrean forces.

A force of the opposition terrorists who are supported by the Eritrean forces, consisting of two detachments armed with Kalashnikovs, Granovs and RPG launchers, clashed with a Sudanese search patrol. One Sudanese soldier was wounded.

As of 13 October 1996, search patrols south of Abu Gamal station had removed 12 anti-vehicle mines that had been laid by the opposition terrorist forces and the Eritrean forces.

Annex II

[Original: Arabic]

Article from issue No. 13 of the daily newspaper Iritriya al-Hadithah, published by the Eritrean Ministry of Information on 16 October 1996

LEADERS OF THE SUDANESE ALLIANCE HOLD THEIR REGULAR MEETING

The Board of the Sudanese National Democratic Alliance held its regular meeting from 7 to 12 October 1996 in Asmara under the chairmanship of Alliance President Muhammad Uthman al-Mirghani.

The meeting, which was attended by all the members of the Board, addressed itself to the tasks before it and took the necessary measures in their regard. It reviewed its achievements in the light of past experience and actual practice as well as regional and international developments as they affected the Sudan and with particular reference to the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on the National Islamic Front (NIF) regime in Khartoum.

The final communiqué adopted by the meeting stated that the leaders had reviewed the most important developments, including the attempt of the Khartoum regime to extricate itself by means of political propaganda from international isolation and its mendacious claims to have relinquished its terrorist activities and to have ceased its violations of human rights.

The communiqué called attention to the dangers inherent in the President of Iran's visit to Khartoum and the agreement he had concluded with the NIF leadership as well as his support for the regime in terms of funds and personnel, all of which might undermine the security of the region and prolong the war in the Sudan.

The communiqué stated that the National Democratic Alliance had noted the suffering of the Sudanese people, as was exemplified by the worsening economic crisis, the exclusive control exercised by NIF, the rise in prices and the deterioration in social services.

The leaders commended the mounting popular resistance, and they took a number of decisions relating to material and moral support to the internal opposition.

The Board approved amendments to particular formulations in the Alliance's Charter and in its decisions, and it referred the draft documents and programmes to its subsequent meetings for adoption.

It called upon governments and international organizations to assist the Sudanese people in its just struggle for peace.

In another development, last Friday a group belonging to the Sudanese Alliance Forces carried out a military operation against NIF forces in an area 25 kilometres south-east of Kassala town.

A press statement issued by the Sudanese Alliance Forces last Saturday said that three NIF soldiers had been killed and several had been wounded in the operation.

The statement indicated that the operation had been carried out to mark the thirty-second anniversary of the October 1964 revolution.